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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
27 FEBRUARY 1953

THE UNREST IN PAKISTAN

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[redacted] the Pakistani Government on 27 February placed patrols of armed police and troops throughout the city, stationed heavy guards at public buildings and at the homes of cabinet ministers, and arrested 300 leaders of an "all-Moslem parties convention" which had threatened "direct action" to remove Foreign Minister Zafrullah Khan from office.

No information has been received on the nature of the convention or its members. Zafrullah Khan, who has been in Cairo since 20 February, has been under attack on political grounds for his failure to resolve the Kashmir question. He has also been criticized on religious grounds for belonging to the Ahmadiya Moslem minority sect, which other Moslems wish to excommunicate.

The convention's threat of "direct action" may have been inspired by the success experienced last January by leftist-led university students, whose uncontrolled rioting in Karachi brought about the government's surrender to student demands for lower university fees and other reforms. If so, it corroborates recent reports that the weakness of the national government is now being openly recognized.

The strong measures taken by the government on 27 February probably result from its embarrassment, privately admitted by Pakistani officials, over the weakness it displayed in dealing with the student riots. These measures will presumably succeed in quelling demonstrations and in preventing whatever "direct action" had been planned for the near future.

Political and religious attacks on the government and Zafrullah Khan are unlikely to end with the present incident, however. The steps taken to control them in the future will be a good measure of whether the government, which has been vacillating, has taken a firm decision to end such criticism.

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